

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT MARVIN KALB'S FIRST LINE REPORT
CBS RADIO, MORNING NEWS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, TITLED
"BREZHNEV'S NEW YEAR'S PRESENT FOR THE SECRETARY".

2. SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV IS NOT GOING TO CAIRO AFTER ALL.
SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS UNEXPECTED POSTPONEMENT.

3. IT WAS A QUICK WEEKEND VISIT -- TWO HIGH RANKING
EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS TO MOSCOW AND THEN BACK TO CAIRO.
THE UPSHOT, AN UNEXPECTED POSTPONEMENT, INDEFINITELY THE
ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, OF SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO THE
EGYPTIAN CAPITAL. IT WAS TO HAVE STARTED ON JANUARY 14T;,
THE KEY STOP ON A THREE NATION BREZHNEV SWING THROUGH THE
ARAB PART OF THE MIDDLE EAST: EGYPT, SYRIA, IRAQ WERE ON
HIS ITINERARY. NOW, THIS ITINERARY HAS BEEN SCRAPPED, FOR
HOW LONG NO ONE IS SURE.

4. BUT THE BREZHNEV VISIT HAD IMPOSED A DEADLINE OF SORTS,
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AT LEAST A MAJOR OBSTACLE, ON SECRETARY OF STATE

KISSINGER'S PATH AND PROGRAM FOR ARRANGING ANOTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DEAL IN THE SINAI. THAT DEADLINE OR OBSTACLE HAS NOW BEEN REMOVED FOR THE TIME BEING AND THE IMMEDIATE RESULT SEEMS TO BE THE EASING OF KISSINGER'S

BURDEN BUT ONLY IN THIS ONE SENSE -- THE PROBLEMS ON THE GROUND REMAIN.

5. EGYPT WANTS ISRAEL, FOR EXAMPLE, TO WITHDRAW FROM THE STRATEGIC MITLA AND GIDI PASSES IN THE SINAI AS PART OF THE NEXT DEAL AND EGYPT ALSO WANTS ISRAEL TO GIVE UP THE ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS. SO FAR AS ONE CAN TELL ISRAEL IS READY FOR A SUBSTANTIAL TROOP WITHDRAWAL IN THE SINAI BUT NOT YET READY TO GIVE CONTROL OF THE PASSES DIRECTLY TO EGYPT -- PERHAPS AT THE BEGINNING TO A U.N. FORCE FOR A LONG TIME, FIVE YEARS OR SO, BUT NOT TO EGYPT. NOR, IT SEEMS, IS ISRAEL READY TO RETURN THE OIL FIELDS WHICH ONCE BELONGED TO EGYPT BUT WHICH ISRAEL HAS BEEN USING SINCE 1967 UNLESS EGYPT IS READY AT THE SAME TIME TO MAKE A STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENT TO SELL OIL TO ISRAEL.

6. SO, THE FACT THAT BREZHNEV, BY POSTPONING THIS VISIT, HAS TEMPORARILY EASED KISSINGER'S BURDEN DOES NOT MEAN THAT KISSINGER'S PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN EASED; THEY REMAIN AS TOUGH AS EVER. BOTH KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD HAVE LATELY BEEN TELLING VISITORS THAT IF THERE IS NOT ANOTHER ISRAELI-ARAB DEAL IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS THERE WILL PROBABLY BE ANOTHER WAR COUPLED WITH ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO, THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF WHICH COULD BE DISASTROUS. THAT CONCERN ABOUT ANOTHER WAR REPRESENTS ITS OWN KIND OF DEADLINE.

7. FOR THE MOMENT, THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT HAS ALLOWED EVERYONE THE LUXURY OF SPECULATING ABOUT WHY. THE RUSSIANS PROVIDE A NEGATIVE REASON -- DON'T SPECULATE, THEY SAY, THAT THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH SOVIET-ARAB RELATIONS, ARAB AS OPPOSED TO EGYPTIAN, AND THIS DIFFERENCE IN WORDING ONLY SPARKED MORE SPECULATION. OFFICIALS HERE ARE SAYING THAT BREZHNEV

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POSTPONED HIS VISIT BECAUSE SADAT REJECTED HIS TERMS FOR A NEW MASSIVE INFUSION OF SOVIET ARMS; THE MOST MEANINGFUL TERM, THAT BREZHNEV WANTED SADAT TO LET RUSSIAN MILITARY ADVISORS RETURN TO EGYPT IN STRENGTH. THAT WOULD HAVE TIED EGYPT TO RUSSIA ONCE AGAIN AND SADAT DECLINED PEGGING EGYPT UNDER HIS CONTROL TO A CLOSER ALLIANCE WITH THE WEST.

8. ANOTHER LINE OF SPECULATION IS THAT BREZHNEV HAS BEEN ILL FOR THOUGH THE SOVIET LEADER HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ILL OF LATE THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT ILLNESS WAS HIS BASIC REASON.

9. ANOTHER LINE OF SPECULATION IS THAT BREZHNEV WANTED SADAT'S COMMITMENT TO A NEW GENEVA CONFERENCE, NOT TO ANOTHER KISSINGER EXTRAVAGANZA AND SADAT SAID, "NO", BELIEVING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT GENEVA IS A DEADEND AT THIS POINT.

10. SO, WHICHEVER LINE OF SPECULATION PROVES TO BE CORRECT, THE UPSHOT, AT THE MOMENT, IS NO BREZHNEV VISIT AND MORE TIME FOR KISSINGER VISITS. (END TEXT). SISCO

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